The 1,266,385 middle-aged adult residents aged 45 to 64 experienced 8,524 deaths or an average of 23 deaths per day. The total mortality rate of middle-aged adults increased by 3.7 percent from 649.1 deaths per 100,000 in 2004 to 673.1/100,000 in 2005 (Table 2C-20), but it was 5.6 percent lower than the 1995 rate of 712.8 per 100,000.

The 2005 total mortality rate among middle-age females was 4.3 percent lower and among middle-aged males 6.6 percent lower than their respective rates in 1995 (Figure 2C-17, Table 2C-20).

Black middle-aged adults, followed by American Indians had the two highest mortality rates (1103.8 deaths per 100,000 and 1077.0/100,000 respectively) among the race/ethnic groups. If the 2005 total mortality rate for American Indian middle-aged adults applied to all Arizona residents 45-64 years old, 13,978 middle-aged adults would have died rather than 8,524 who actually did.
Middle-aged adults experienced an unprecedented increase in mortality from accidental drug overdoses. In 2005, 250 deaths of middle-aged adults were attributed to accidental poisoning by drugs (Table 2C-23), compared to 39 deaths in 1995 and 13 deaths in 1990. The 2005 rate for accidental drug overdoses among middle-aged Arizonans (19.7/100,000) was 4 times greater than the rate of 4.9/100,000 reported for 1995 (Figure 2C-19).

In 2005, as in the past, rural middle-aged males had the poorest survival chances among the gender by area groups (Figure 2C-20). Rural middle-aged male chances of death in 2005 were 24 percent greater than urban males, 78 percent greater than rural females, and 2.1 times (106.3 percent) greater than urban females.

* Maricopa, Pima, Pinal and Yuma Counties.